

GRANITE STATE LIBRARIES



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY

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FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN.....The end of the year provides a logical time to review what has happened in the preceding 12 months in hopes of predicting, or at least guessing, at what we might expect in the next year. The previous year can only be described as a challenging one for the New Hampshire State Library - suffering cutbacks in both Federal (7%) and state funding (22%) has made it difficult for the State Library to maintain its level of service to the New Hampshire library community - a major statutory responsibility. Whining about our difficulties, of course, is not helpful and that is not my intent. We recognize that many libraries in New Hampshire are struggling, just as we are, with reductions in appropriations from towns and cities. Although New Hampshire has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, we have not escaped what many say is the deepest and what may be one of the longest recessions since the 1930s. Although the country technically came out of the recession well over a year ago, the effects of the housing bubble, bank meltdowns and serious debt problems in Europe have shaken confidence in our monetary systems and have had a deleterious effect on our consumer driven economy.

Unfortunately, for the State Library, the downturn in state revenue was not just headlines in the state's newspaper, it was very real as we had to layoff 4 full-time and two part-time employees. These employees were colleagues and friends to the staff, people we worked with for many years. They were outstanding workers who took pride in what they did for the citizens of the State. They had helped to build the outstanding reputation the State Library enjoys with its customers. They were making a difference every day to people who rely on the State Library to provide services. It is important to put a face on the statistics and let the public know that when budgets are cut it not only has an impact on what we are able to do for libraries; NHAIS, Children's Services, Interlibrary Loan, Family Resource Connection, etc., etc., just to name a few things we do every day to help New

Hampshire citizens, it also has an impact on individuals whose lives are changed dramatically because they no longer have a job that they take pride in and enjoy. It means that personal finances need to be adjusted and changes need to be made. Yes, the letting go of these State Library employees did have a dramatic impact on the services that we provide, but the personal impact on the employees of the State Library was very important as well.

Starting off the new fiscal year there was a request from the House Finance Committee to review how we use the federal funds we receive, specifically the funds used to run the van interlibrary loan delivery system. The report was due on November 30th and it was submitted to the Chairman of the House Finance Committee, Mr. Kenneth Weyler. As instructed, I reported what we would use the funds that are currently spent to run 3 of the interlibrary loan vans if the money was directed for a different purpose. I stated that the funds would, if directed to do so, would be spent on those things that have the greatest impact on the New Hampshire library community: Databases, digital resources and New Hampshire Downloadable Book Consortium. However, I also stated that as evidenced by the reaction to section 224:215 of HB2, 18,000 petitions asking that the service not be curtailed and the cost effective nature of the service and the positive economic impact on individual libraries that the funds spent on the van service made the most sense and was the best use of our limited federal funds.

- Michael York, State Librarian

READS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The READS Award of Excellence Committee along with the READS Executive Board is very pleased to announce that Thelma Tracy of the Weare Public Library is the winner of the 2011 Award of Excellence.

Tracy, currently the Assistant Librarian at Weare Public Library, previously worked at the Concord Public Library and the Tucker Free Library in Henniker. An excerpt from her nomination, which was read at the READS Fall Conference on October 7th, included the following: "Thelma is the adult services go-to-person...she is a tireless advocate for the library, her performance always goes beyond what's expected, she gets along well with staff and the public, and in spite of her awareness of the limitations imposed by the size and financial status of the library, she provides traditional and electronic service to patrons."

Congratulations, Thelma!

For the past 7 years, the READS Award of Excellence has recognized outstanding contributions by a library staff member who has been instrumental in improving library service to adults. Nomination materials for the 2012 Award will be available in late winter. For more information, please see www.nhlibrarians.org/reads/index.html or contact a READS board member.

NASHUA SUPPORTS NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

by Carol Luers Eyman
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Each year, November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), when writers around the world attempt to churn out 50,000-word novels in 30 days.

In October, four NaNoWriMo veterans spoke at the Nashua Public Library. The writers, all members of Broad Universe, a group that celebrates female sci-fi, fantasy, and horror authors, offered advice to aspiring novelists about how to meet the 50,000-word goal. The library's webmaster, Julie Andrews, a member of Broad Universe, was one of the speakers and arranged the group's participation in the library program.

In November, the library held five "Come Write Ins": four-hour sessions during which a meeting room was reserved for NaNoWriMo participants who wanted to get out of the house, avoid distractions, and write! We provided tables, chairs, wifi, power strips, and official NaNoWriMo stickers; we also let people bring coffee (usually a no-no).

Twenty people attended the Broad Universe program, many of them home-schooled teens. The presentation lasted about 45 minutes, but most people stayed much longer, talking one-on-one with the speakers and networking with one another. (The coffee and cookies we served were a draw as well). The room exuded enthusiasm!

Between four and six people attended each Come Write in. For the most part, silence prevailed in these sessions.

Lesson learned for next time: We should take registrations for our NaNoWriMo programs or hold a follow-up event at the end of the month. When it was over, we had no formal way to contact the participants, although we'd love to know if they finished and whether they plan to publish what they wrote.

2012 TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

by Ann Hoey, Youth Services Consultant
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The collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) and YALS (Young Adult Librarians of NH) are excited to announce the launch of the "2012 Teen Video Challenge," a national video competition for teens to get involved with reading and their public library's summer reading program.

Teens across the country are invited to create a 30 to 90 second video with their unique interpretation of the 2012 teen slogan, "Own the Night" in combination with reading and libraries. This is an opportunity for teens to showcase their creativity and have their ideas heard before a national audience.

The winning video from each participating state will be named one of the CSLP 2012 Teen Videos to promote summer reading nationwide.

\$275 will be awarded to the creators of the winning state video and their associated public library will receive prizes worth \$150 from CSLP and Upstart. Winners will be announced by CSLP in spring 2012.

For full details about the CSLP "2012 Teen Video Challenge" and to find out how to enter New Hampshire's competition please visit www.nashualibrary.org/YALS/SCLP2012.htm. The deadline to return completed entry forms is March 12, 2012.

To view the 2011 winning videos - including New Hampshire's - visit the CSLP "2011 Winners page" - www.cslpreads.org/winners.html.

2012 LADYBUG PICTURE BOOK AWARD

The Ladybug Picture Book Award Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Ladybug Picture Book Award list. Nominations are accepted from New Hampshire libraries, including school libraries. In order to be considered, a title must meet the following criteria:

- be published within the last three years (2009-2011)
- be in print
- have BOTH the book's author and illustrator from the U.S.
- possess strong child appeal
- have artistic quality with text that supports the illustrations
- not be a title previously nominated (Please see Ladybug website for past nominees: (www.nh.gov/bookcenter/programs/ladybug.html))

Before you submit your nominations, please check to make sure your titles meet the criteria listed above. Also, please send the following information about your nomination to Jackie Heath at bpl@worldpath.net: Title of Picture Book, Author, Illustrator, Copyright Date and ISBN (all of this information is necessary!).

The deadline to submit nominations to bpl@worldpath.net is FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOOK COLUMN**

by Linda Jayes, Supervisor
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Anderson, Carol Lee. **THE HISTORY OF GUNSTOCK: SKIING IN THE BELKNAP MOUNTAINS.** History Press, 2011. \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-60949-136-9

Clarkson, Stephen. **A DIFFERENT TIME, A DIFFERENT MAN: THE STORY OF JOHN L. SULLIVAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR FDR AND TRUMAN'S SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, 2011.** \$24.95 ISBN 978-1-931807-98-2

"How an adroit New Hampshire Irishman Played a Key Role in Financing World War II and Afterward fought to Save the United States Navy and Marine Corps." - from book jacket.

Duncanson, Joann Snow. **EIGHT CRAYONS: POEMS AND STORIES BY AN ALMOST SANE WOMAN.** Xlibris Corporation, 2011. \$29.99 ISBN 978-4628-6715-8.

A collection of poems and stories.

Emmert, Loni, and P.I. Barrington. **BUTTON HOLLOW CHRONICLES NO. 1: THE LEAF PEEPER MURDERS.** Mainly Murder Press, LLC, 2010. \$12.95 ISBN 978-0-9825899-9-1

A cozy mystery set in small-town New Hampshire.

Esposito, Mary Ann. **CIAO ITALIA: FAMILY CLASSICS.** St. Martin's Press, 2011. \$40.00 ISBN 978-0-312-57121-4

"More than 200 treasured recipes from three generations of Italian cooks." Another beautiful cookbook from New Hampshire native Mary Ann Esposito.

Frucci, Lindsay. **THE PIG & ME.** Square Hill, 2011. ISBN 9780615428222

A memoir by the founder of *No Pudge! Foods*.

Hall, Donald. **THE BACK CHAMBER.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011. \$22.00 ISBN 978-0-547-64585-8

Harris, John R., Kay Morgan and Mike Dickerman, editors. **BEYOND THE NOTCHES: STORIES OF PLACE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NORTH COUNTRY.** Bondcliff Books, 2011. \$29.95. ISBN 978-1-931271-28-8

Hirsh-Dickinson, Sally. **DIRTY WHITES AND DARK SECRETS: SEX AND RACE IN PEYTON PLACE.** University of New Hampshire Press, 2011. ISBN 978-1-61168-042-3

Homeyer, Henry. **ORGANIC GARDENING NOT JUST IN THE NORTHEAST: A HANDS-ON MONTH-BY-MONTH GUIDE.** Block prints by Josh Yunger. Bunker Hill Publishing, 2011. \$17.50 ISBN 978-1-59373-090-1

Jones, Phil. **WHEN CUBA WAS LOST.** Norway Hill Press, 2010. \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-615-42368-5
A novel set in pre-Castro Cuba.

Maxfield, Henry S. **THE MORLAND SYNDROME: A NOVEL.** Southwick House Publishers, 2010. \$19.75 ISBN 978-0-9666289-6-8

NATIVE AMERICAN ART AT DARTMOUTH: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOOD MUSEUM OF ART. Published by the Hood Museum of Art and University Press of New England, 2011.
ISBN 978-1-61168-033-1

Published to coincide with an exhibition held at the Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH, October 8, 2011-March 12, 2012.

Paulsen, Ken. **NEW HAMPSHIRE: AN AUTUMN SOJOURN.** Schiffer Publishing, 2011. \$34.99
ISBN 978-0-7643-3870-0

A lovely book of Paulsen's color photographs of rural New Hampshire in the fall.

Polidoro, Brenda M., editor. **DAY BOOK OF JEREMIAH SMITH JEWETT; VOLUME ONE: JANUARY 1, 1854-DECEMBER 31, 1869.** Laconia Historical and Museum Society, 2011.
ISBN 978-1-4568-7364-6

Daily journal of Jewett, who was a railroad surveyor, lawyer, merchant, undertaker, farmer, and Methodist minister in the New Hampshire Lakes region.

Ryan, Tom. **FOLLOWING ATTICUS: FORTY-EIGHT HIGH PEAKS, ONE LITTLE DOG, AND AN EXTRAORDINARY FRIENDSHIP.** William Morrow, 2011. \$25.99 ISBN 978-0-06-199710-5

Narrative of the author's attempt to hike ninety-six White Mountain peaks with his miniature schnauzer, Atticus.

Slawenski, Kenneth. **J.D. SALINGER: A LIFE.** Random House, 2011. \$27.00
ISBN 978-1-4000-6951-4

IMLS RELEASES NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

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In November, 2011, Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), released the agency's new strategic plan for FY 2012-FY 2016 (www.imls.gov/about/strategic_plan.aspx). The plan envisions a democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. The new plan identifies the mission of IMLS to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, learning, and cultural and civic engagements by providing leadership through research, policy development and grant-making.

The planning process, launched in June 2011, with the National Museum and Library Services Board, engaged a wide range of stakeholders including more than 1,400 participants in an online forum. It provides a roadmap to implement the Museum and Library Services Act which recognizes that U.S. libraries and museums are powerful national assets with capacity that must be developed and fully used to enhance economic development and lifelong learning.

"Rapidly changing economic, demographic and technological conditions are creating demand for new library and museum services, noted Ms. Hildreth. "This plan will help IMLS carry out its important federal mandate to help America create 21st century institutions that provide the essential educational and cultural opportunities we need for a competitive future."

The strategic plan establishes a clear framework for performance improvements that emphasizes evidence-based program developments and evaluation and includes identifying and sharing best practices; aligning grant-making to best practices and research results; networking to build capacity; and assessing progress.

Five strategic goals will drive IMLS activities and investments:

Strategic Goal 1: IMLS places the learner at the center and supports engaging experiences in libraries and museums that prepare people to be full participants in their local communities and our global society

Strategic Goal 2: IMLS promotes museum and libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality.

Strategic Goal 3: IMLS supports exemplary stewardship of museum and library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage.

Strategic Goal 4: IMLS advises the President and Congress on plans, policies, and activities that sustain and increase public access to information and ideas.

Strategic Goal 5: IMLS achieves excellence in public management and performs as a model organization through strategic alignments of IMLS resources and prioritization to programmatic activities, maximizing for the American public.

To read more about the IMLS Strategic Plan see - www.imls.gov/plan.

CONWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY BECOMES THE FIRST FAMILY PLACE LIBRARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Tara Thomas, Director
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Thanks to generous funding from the Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation, the Conway Public Library is now the first Family Place Library in New Hampshire. Expanding the traditional role of children's services beyond story times, Family Place Libraries build on the knowledge that early learning, good health, parental involvement, and supportive communities play a critical role in young children's growth and development. Through the Family Place program, the Conway Public Library will provide comprehensive community-based early childhood education and family support for children one to three years of age.

Written by Janis Minshull, Conway Public Library Youth Services Librarian, and Tara Thomas, Conway Public Library Director, the Ham Charitable Foundation awarded the Friends of the Conway Public Library the \$19,000 grant to implement the program earlier this year. Minshull and Thomas attended training to learn best practices for implementing the program at the Family Place Training Institute located at the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York in late fall.

According to Thomas, "Our goal in becoming a Family Place is to help and support parents and caregivers in their role as their child's first teacher. We are thrilled that the Ham Charitable Foundation gave a green light to our grant request and we are ecstatic to be bringing people together to build our community's future."

With more than 300 sites nationwide in twenty-three states, the principle behind the Family Place network of libraries is for the library and the community to partner in an order to connect parents with the resources and services they need during the first years of their child's development. As a Family Place Library, the Conway Public Library will be a center for early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization, and family support for the Mt. Washington Valley. In order to achieve this, the Conway Public Library will partner with a number of community organizations and childcare centers.

The hallmark of the Family Place program is a five-week series of workshops that brings together toddlers and their parents in an informal early childhood setting filled with toys, art activities, and books while encouraging parents to play with their children and meet other parents and caregivers. Professionals from the health and human service organizations will move casually around the room and chat informally with participants and answer child rearing questions. The workshops, titled *Play to Learn, Learn to Play*, will be held at the Conway Public Library on Mondays beginning March 5, 2012 and will run to April 2, 2012. They will be offered again in the fall of 2012.

As part of the Family Place program, the Conway Public Library also will reconfigure its children's room to offer a welcoming designed space for families of young children and expand its collection of books, toys, music and multimedia materials for babies, toddlers, parents, and service providers. All expenses to implement the program will be funded through the grant.

For more information about the Family Place Library program, visit their website www.familyplacelibraries.org/ or contact the Conway Public Library at (603) 447-5552 or e-mail Tara Thomas - tthomas@conwaypubliclibrary.org.

BERRIE DONOVAN NAMED WAKEFIELD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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www.fosters.com
by John Nolan
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published April 21, 2011

At a meeting of the Greater Wakefield Chamber of Commerce on April 12, held in the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, part of the program included naming the Citizen of the Year for 2011.

The announcement was made by the 2010 Citizen of the Year, Paul Winckler, who said that four names had been submitted to the selection committee for consideration, and all were worthy choices. The committee agreed that one person, though, was particularly outstanding, and Winckler named that person as Beryl Donovan, the director of the Gafney Library.

Donovan, seated in another part of the packed hall, was visibly surprised. She rose to join Winckler, who presented her with a framed award, but before he did so, he read out the nomination letter that had won over the judges:



"We wish to submit the name of Beryl Donovan of Union as Greater Wakefield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2011. As you know, Berrie is the Library for the Gafney Library in Wakefield, but her commitment to our community and her involvement in trying to meet the needs of area citizens goes far beyond the position for which she is compensated.

"As the Library Director, she has always looked for ways to multiply the services offered, despite the lack of space and antiquated facilities. Her aim has always been to make the Gafney Library a 'community center' providing free public computers, 24-hour wireless service, fax, copying machine, the most up-to-date materials available and programming.

"Over the many years she has worked to find financial gifts to purchase additional children's materials, subscriptions for museum passes and a program of downloadable audio/e-book materials.

"She is always available to the patrons, no matter what other pressing matters are on her desk. She has spent countless hours helping computer-illiterate patrons with e-mail, job applications, genealogical researches and research projects. That is service that goes far beyond the job description of the typical library director and not often found in small, rural libraries, yet this is the norm for Berrie. With her, the patron always comes first.

"When a generous donor wanted to use the library as the conduit for a grant for better access to the Arts in Wakefield, she was responsible for the administration of a multifaceted program, involving the Paul School, the library and other community groups. Some of the activities from this program have continued on, even though the funding has been exhausted.

"Within the Wakefield community, she was a founding force and one of the original incorporators of P2P, a local 501(C) (3) organization that helps people in need find appropriate assistance. In addition, she has been a point person for the George Wentworth Trust, an organization providing scholarship money to women in Wakefield who want to pursue their education. As such, she has aided nearly a 100 women in finding financial help;

for many, there would be no schooling without this option.

"Berrie's most notable contribution to the Greater Wakefield area is as developer and director of the Gafney Library Literacy Program. What started as a drop-in center, staffed by volunteers, where people needing to complete their GED came for mentoring, has blossomed into so much more. Yes, people will come to the Greater Wakefield Resource Center on Wednesdays for GED preparation, including pre-tests, guidance, and tutorial assistance. But now they can take their GED qualification tests there as well, a huge help for many in our community who find transportation a problem. Otherwise they would have to travel to Conway or Dover.

"Additional services are available there for those who want to improve their basic reading and/or math skills, to meet with a career counselor who will help with resumes and job searches, and to receive encouragement when academics seem too hard. Berrie now oversees seven staff members there and countless volunteers. The program has helped over 750 people since its inception and this past year 35 people received their GED. All this developed from her personal vision of finding ways to help the citizens of the Wakefield area improve their lives.

"While developing the Literacy Program and from talking to students who use the Gafney Library, Berrie became quite aware of the problems Paul School graduates have when they are thrust into the larger, more urban Spaulding High School. From the growth of the Literacy Program she became aware of the large number of local students dropping out of Spaulding, yet no one could tell her the dropout rate for Wakefield alone. There seemed to be a lack of communication between the SAU and the high school. She started a series of roundtable discussions between parents and the administration at Spaulding and the SAU to try to ease some of these concerns. She continues to communicate with those responsible for the education of our local students as the state laws evolve regarding educational requirements.

"She was selected for the 2009 Leaders Inspiring Readers Award by the New Hampshire Authorfest for her 'outstanding contributions to literacy in New Hampshire.'

"She also received recognition from the IRS for making it possible for the AARP tax aide program to use the library facilities. This program makes free tax preparation assistance available to low income and senior citizens in the community.

"As you can see, Berrie is more than just the local librarian. She has made a difference in the lives of many more people than just library patrons. We hope that you will consider Beryl Donovan for Citizen of the Year for her selfless devotion to the people of the Wakefield area."

As Winckler presented Donovan with her plaque, the Chamber of Commerce members gave her a rousing ovation, while she expressed her gratitude.

MADBURY LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS HONORED

by Nancy Bergeron, retired Library Director
Madbury Public Library
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At a recent thank-you gathering of Madbury Library Volunteers, the Trustees of the Library announced their 2011 Volunteer of the Year. A very surprised Peggy Wolcott was one of the 16 volunteers present at the breakfast celebration and she graciously accepted her framed certificate of award as well as a very unique library mug. Peggy was one of the 'founding mothers' who helped to establish the library in 2001. Since that time she has given countless hours of dedicated service to the library and its staff. She has donated ideas, energy, enthusiasm and "Peggy Power" to the library and our children's room owes much to her loving stewardship. The Library is a very special place within the Madbury community thanks, in part, to the dedication of volunteers such as Peggy.



GIRL SCOUT AND BROWNIE TROOPS HELP LIBRARY

Girl Scout Junior Troop 22916 and Brownie Troop 12394 have taken the Madbury Library under their wings. In the spring they planted a ring of flowers around our lawn sign. More recently they created "Scarecrow Girl Scouts" to decorate the Madbury Public Library lawn. The scarecrows are surrounding our hickory tree that stands between the road and the library. Signs around their necks tell what each scarecrow likes to eat and read. The scouts plan on a snow man surprise for us and the community later in the year. The two sister troops "work together to build friendship, smiles and fun!" They certainly brought smiles to the faces of our patrons. One patron recently e-mailed the library to say "If you drive by the Library on a moon lit night at midnight, you will see all those 'people' dancing around the tree! I love them! Wish they could stay there. They look so happy, like they are having fun." What a wonderful sharing of resources and one more example of how we are all one community.



can you spot the real Girl Scout in this picture?

LIBRARIAN RECEIVES STATE'S TOP HONOR

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www.citizen.com
by John Koziol
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published November 11, 2011

For persevering - and occasionally prospering - during challenging times that required some out-of-the-box thinking, including on the fundraising side, Lynn Christopher has been named a Library Director of the Year by the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association.

Founded in 1957, the association educates library trustees "to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire public libraries," and it advocates "the right of free access to information for every person."

The association annually presents several awards, among them the Library Director of the Year award, which, in 2011, went to Christopher and also - because there were so many qualified candidates to choose from, said the association's president, Adele Knight - to Dense Van Zanten, of the Manchester City Library.

In Hill, Christopher oversees a facility with 11,000 volumes and several computers that is open 32 hours a week. The current hours of operation are up from only 12 hours a decade ago, when the library was little more than a bunch of books in milk crates, she said, adding that the library had just moved out of its former home in the nearby Jennie D. Blake Elementary School and into the municipal complex that also includes Town Hall and the Hill Police Department.

Now, thanks to various fundraising efforts - a cow pie bingo being among the most creative examples thereof - and to grants and donations, the library is doing well, but is far from thriving, said Christopher, who will celebrate 10 years as the town's librarian this week.

A native of Massachusetts, Christopher said she and her family came north more than 15 years ago, "for the quiet" that they ultimately found in this tiny town, just north of Franklin. Always a book worm - although she majored in business in college - Christopher began volunteering at the library as a way of helping her daughter, Angela, now 23, stay on top of her school work. Gradually, she assumed greater responsibilities and became the library's paid director.

"I'm in it for the long haul," said Christopher, who thanked the library Board of Trustees - Julie Hunter, Chair; Gayle Seip, Treasurer; and Melanie Waldvogel, Secretary - for supporting her in her post and for nominating her for the NHLTA's Library Director of the Year co-honors.

Waldvogel, who later presented Christopher with a proclamation from Gov. John Lynch, said Hill was "very lucky" to have the library and Christopher leading it.

Knight told the several dozen well-wishers, who gathered at the library to watch Christopher receive the award, that she and her fellow association members were "so impressed" with what Christopher has been able to accomplish in Hill despite a 25 percent reduction in the library budget from just three years ago.

"Christopher," said Knight, "has exhibited professionalism, leadership and outstanding performance and has demonstrated initiative in developing programs and services to meet the needs of the community.

"The aforementioned budget cut," Knight continued, "reduced the library hours and the children's summer reading program, while also resulting in drastic cuts to the book budget, but Christopher nonetheless worked through the difficulties.

"Christopher came up with activities to keep the summer reading program going; she did book sales, bake sales, crafts fairs, raffles and the cow-pie bingo while also working extra and unpaid hours," said Knight.

"Additionally, Christopher gave computer lessons, increased grant writing, explained the budget cuts to residents and - in the words of the library trustees," Knight summed up, "took a situation of lemons and had the vision to make lemonade."

"I'm truly honored," said Christopher as she received the Library Director of the Year award from Knight, adding it was also an award and honor for the entire Town of Hill.

Yesterdays' celebration was tempered, however, by the fact that Christopher said she will have to reduce the library's hours of operation to save money.

All things considered, Christopher has done "an outstanding job here," said Knight, and was well deserving of recognition and praise by the 234-member association.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR LOU UNGARELLI RETIRES

by Sean Fleming, Director
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As 2011 draws to a close, so too did the tenure of Lou Ungarelli, who retired from his post as library director just before Christmas. During the seven years he worked for the City, he successfully coordinated fund raising for the construction of the Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon. Ungarelli was honored at a reception in December, where it was "decreed" by N.H. Governor John Lynch that December 9, 2011 should be "Lou Ungarelli Day."

"He's a very outgoing and direct and a people person. It took someone with Lou's personality to get the job done," said Sean Fleming, who was appointed to be library director in January 2012.

"I'm going to miss him a lot, especially when it comes to asking his advice about the little things that come up during the day," Fleming said. "Lou is one-of-a-kind and a great resource."

THEY LOVE STRATHAM LIBRARY: STREELMAN, COTTER, DANKO HONORED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT

Reprinted with Permission
by Aaron Davis
newsletter@seacoastonline.com
published, November 15, 2011

Bruce Cotter, chairman of the Wiggin Memorial Library Board of Trustees, was awarded the honor of Library Trustee of the Year by the New Hampshire Library Trustee Association on Saturday. Also honored were Phyllis Danko and Jan Streelman, who received the Champions for Children Award for their devotion to children's programs.

"You will see Bruce at library programs and events, at selectmen's meetings and outside the local grocery store with library surveys," said Library Director Lesley Kimball. "Bruce is a born leader who has a deep commitment to community and to libraries and literature, not to mention a big heart, great sense of humor, and a true affinity for people."

Cotter has served on the Library Board of Trustees for four years and in that time has led several important initiatives, which have brought the library an expanded level of service in tough economic times.

He oversaw the 2009-10 expansion of the Wiggin Memorial Library, by launching a fund-raising campaign.

The library needed \$60,000 to be raised in two years. Cotter wrote letters, made phone calls and had meetings to let potential donors know about the value of the library.

"Bruce's leadership was instrumental," Kimball said. "The project was ambitious, but with Bruce's hard work it was also attainable."

In addition to leading the fund-raising campaign for the expansion/renovation of the library, Cotter has taken over duties of hosting the annual book sale. On average the sale would gross between \$300 and \$600 for the library, but under Cotter's leadership the sale is now held twice a year bringing in close to \$3,000, which helped pay for the library's new circulation system.

After Cotter was named chairperson of the library board, he worked with selectmen and local leaders to expand the board to include alternate library trustees. He also created a Library Trustee Orientation program that will help each new member understand the expectations placed on them, the ins and outs of local government, and its impact on the library.

"He has done outstanding work developing Stratham library," said Loring Webster of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association. "He has been the prime mover on fund raising which has allowed to make the building what it is today. A dynamic person."

One task many library staffers were highly appreciative of was when the janitors were out sick for a week and Cotter came in early to clean the bathrooms.

"I just love this library," Cotter said. "I love books and I read them and collect them and I've been a reader since I was young."

Not only was Cotter honored, but Danko and Streelman received the Champions for Children award given out by the Stratham School Board.

"When they mean champions, these people have gone above and beyond," Kimball said. "This is in recognition not only of the fact that Phyllis and Jan spend a lot of time in the schools, but they help prepare books for teachers...these are people who care about children, it's the first thing they think of."

Danko works many hours in the summer and started a program called Knitwits, where students come together to learn knitting and donate blankets to children in hospitals.

Streelman worked with reading programs for kids in the Seacoast, during the school year and the summer. She has offered preschool and toddler reading programs.

"It is a real privilege and honor," Streelman said. "I'd like to say thank you to the town, the staff of the library and the trustees."

"The growth in this library has been amazing," Danko said. "Thank you, you have all been great."

These awards come after a succession of awards for the library. In 1999 Mike Sullivan was awarded Trustee of the Year.

In 2004-05, the library was awarded Library of the Year and Craig Wark was awarded Trustee of the Year.

"I feel like in a wonderful way, we've been accepting a lot of awards lately," Kimball said, who was awarded Librarian of the Year in 2010. "It has definitely been tough times to be presenting such projects, but we have been fortunate in the awards we've received."

It may be tough times and progressive projects in general, but the Wiggin Memorial Library has managed to "find ways to maintain the level of service in a tough economy," Cotter said. "We get flat budgets from the town, which means less every year because the price of things goes up, but we do the most we can with those dollars."

**NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 2011
LADYBUG PICTURE BOOK AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED**

by Mary Russell, Director
Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library
(603) 271-2866 • www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/index.html

New Hampshire children, from preschoolers to third graders, have selected *Memoirs of a Goldfish* as the winner of the 2011 Ladybug Picture Book Award.

Memoirs of a Goldfish received 4,892 votes from the 19,826 cast by children across the state. It was written by Devin Scillian and illustrated by Tim Bowers, and is published by Sleeping Bear Press. The voting this year was quite close, with *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein (Candlewick Press) coming within 12 votes of the winner.

Sponsored by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library, the Ladybug Picture Book Award was established to promote early literacy and to honor the best in recent children's picture books. Previous winners have included Judy Schachner's *Skypppyjon Jones*, Keiko Kasza's *My Lucky Day* and *Waking Beauty*, written by Leach Wilcox and illustrated by Lydia Monks.

Earlier in 2011, a committee of children's librarians from around New Hampshire selected ten picture books as nominees for the Award. Throughout the summer and fall, librarians and teachers shared the nominated books with children at storytimes, developed colorful displays of the titles, and encouraged families to borrow and read them at home.

During November - election time in many communities, more than 140 New Hampshire preschoolers, elementary schools and public libraries provided children with ballots so they could vote for their favorites from this year's nominated titles.

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Department of Cultural Resources

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-- Editorial Policy --

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